

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sound control system comprising:  
a plurality of electronic devices connected to a  
5 communication network, each of the electronic devices being  
capable of independently producing sound from connected  
speakers; and

a sound control device identifying the electronic  
devices, the sound control device transmitting control  
10 signals for controlling the electronic devices and audio  
signals corresponding to the speakers to the electronic  
devices;

wherein each electronic device comprises receiving means  
for receiving the control signals and the audio signals via  
15 the communication network and selecting means for switching  
from other external signals to the audio signals in response  
to the control signals in order to drive the speakers by only  
the audio signals output to the speakers.

20 2. A sound control system according to Claim 1, wherein  
the audio signals include surround sound signals.

3. A sound control system according to Claim 2, wherein  
the sound control device comprises a sound collector, test  
25 signal transmitting means for transmitting test signals to  
the electronic devices via the communication network, and  
correction means for receiving test sounds produced from the  
speakers with the sound collector in response to the test

signals, for analyzing the received sound signal, and for adjusting the output balance of the audio signals to the electronic devices.

5        4. A sound control system according to one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the communication network includes a wireless communication network.

10      5. A sound control system according to one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the communication network includes a power line communication network.

15      6. A sound control system according to one of Claims 1 to 3, further comprising a lighting apparatus connected to the communication network, wherein the sound control device is capable of transmitting a light signal for changing the illumination light of the lighting apparatus via the communication network, and the lighting apparatus comprises light-signal receiving means for receiving the light signal via the communication network and light control means for changing at least one of the intensity and the color of the illumination light in response to the light signal.

20      7. A sound control device comprising transmitting means connected via a communication network to a plurality of electronic devices capable of independently producing sounds from connected speakers, the transmitting means being capable of identifying the electronic devices and transmitting

control signals for controlling the electronic devices and audio signals corresponding to the speakers to the electronic devices, wherein the control signals includes at least signals for switching from other external signals to the 5 audio signals in order to drive the speakers by only the audio signals output to the speakers.

8. A sound control device according to Claim 7, further comprising:

10 a sound collector;

test signal transmitting means for transmitting test signals to the electronic devices via the communication network; and

correction means for receiving test sounds from the 15 speakers with the collector in response to the test signals, analyzing the received sound signal, and adjusting the output balance of the audio signals to the electronic devices.

9. A sound control device according to Claim 7 or 8, 20 wherein the sound control device is capable of transmitting a light signal for changing the illumination light of a lighting apparatus via the communication network, and the light signal changes at least one of the intensity and the color of the illumination light.

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10. An electronic device capable of independently producing sounds from connected speakers, comprising:  
receiving means being capable of connecting to a

communication network and receiving control signals and audio signals via the communication network; and

selecting means for switching from other external signals to the audio signals in response to the control  
5 signals in order to drive the speaker by only the audio signals output to the speakers.

11. A method for controlling sound in the sound control system according to Claim 3, comprising:

10 a test sound production step of transmitting the test signals to the electronic devices by the test signal transmitting means and producing test sound from the speakers of the electronic devices; and

a correction step of receiving the test sound from the  
15 sound collector, analyzing the received sound signals, and adjusting the output balance of the audio signals to the electronic devices.